

ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES

with U.S. and Mexican non-governmental organizations on cross border issues such as water monitoring, sustainable power plants, and law reform. She has been featured on Lehrer News Hour and in the Los Angeles Times for her work challenging ill-advised power plants in Mexico, designed to serve U.S. energy needs. She is now collaborating across the region to protect the Baja California Peninsula and the Sea of Cortez from unsustainable development projects.

Joost Rutteman Netherlands

Joost is a lawyer working with the Netherlands Society for Nature and Environment (Stichting Natuur en Milieu, www.snm.nl). SNM works to make sustainability a cornerstone of policy and legislation, at the European, national and local levels. SNM coordinates the Strategic Council of close to 30 national organizations, including the Society for the Preservation of Nature in The Netherlands, Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Greenpeace, and the World Wide Fund for Nature. Joost has worked to control pesticide pollution and to protect the Scheldt and Meuse Rivers from polluting steel plants. He served as a consultant on water pollution in Russia and Ukraine with the environmental NGO Milieukontakt Oost Europa.



Alberto Barandiaran Gomez Peru

Beto is co-founder and president of Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Law, Environment and Natural Resources) in Lima. Prior to that he was legal advisor to Peru's National Institute of Natural Resources and worked for the Peruvian Society of Environmental Law. He co-authored a study of one of the ten most polluted cities in the world: "La Oroya Cannot Wait" (September 2002). The Andean town of La Oroya is gravely affected by lead, arsenic, and cadmium emissions from a U.S. corporation's smelter. Beto is now working on cases involving oil and gas projects in the Peruvian Amazon that impact protected areas, forests, indigenous people, and indigenous lands.



Raul Barbarona Philippines

Raul is the Executive Director of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (www.elac.org.ph), an environmental organization addressing the leading social causes of environmental degradation in the Philippines: illegal practices, unsound



policies, poor resource management, and lack of awareness. With offices in Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, and Palawan, ELAC's staff lawyers, paralegals, researchers, and community organizers join an extensive network of volunteer lawyers and scientists who are helping communities uphold their constitutional right to a healthy environment. The organization is working on issues related to mining, fisheries, forestry, and energy. Raul is the President of the Bohol Alliance of Non-Government Organizations and recently served two terms as Vice Mayor of Loon, Bohol.

Shiela de Leone Philippines

Shiela is an Associate Lawyer and Area Director at the Southern Luzon office of Tanggol Kalikasan (www.tanggol.org). Shiela recently put herself at considerable risk when she helped confiscate over one million pesos (\$20,000) worth of timber from illegal loggers in the Southern Sierra Madre mountains. In coordination with other agencies, she helped discover hundreds of thousands of liters of hazardous waste in Quezon Province, which is now the subject of a national investigation. Shiela has helped prepare over 100 illegal fishing cases. The Southern Luzon office of Tanggol Kalikasan manages programs on the marine and coastal environment, forests and watersheds, and pollution and solid waste.



Ipat Luna Philippines

Ipat is an environmental lawyer working with several NGOs in the Philippines, including Tanggol Kalikasan (www.tanggol.org) where she serves as President. Ipat has worked with the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center, the Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, and the consortium NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas. Ipat has traveled widely to advance protection of natural resources in the Philippines and consults directly with community-based organizations on the legal aspects of resource management and conservation. She has collaborated with ELAW for 15 years.



Irina Bogdan Russia

Irina is Director of the Environmental Law Center at Ecodal (www.ecodal.ru), a non-governmental organization in Khabarovsk, in the Russian Far East. Ecodal has worked to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, salmon habitat, and native forests. Ecodal joined others in challenging Sakhalin 1 – an offshore oil

project funded by a consortium of energy companies, including Exxon-Mobil and partners in Russia, India, and Japan. Ecodal helped convince President Putin to re-route the trans-Siberian oil pipeline away from Lake Baikal. Since 1998, Ecodal has filed dozens of lawsuits in the Russian Far East against companies that intended to log without first going through the environmental impact assessment process. Ecodal's success has helped resolve many forest management problems in the Russian Far East.

Eva Kovacechova Slovakia

Eva is a lawyer and trainer at Via Iuris (www.viaiuris.sk), a non-profit organization working to broaden access to justice in Slovakia. Via Iuris uses strategic litigation, education, and legal reform to advance freedom of information and public participation. A recent Via Iuris training series educated Slovaks active in Roma rights protection. Via Iuris works to combat corruption, protect minority rights, and promote freedom of expression. Prior to joining Via Iuris, Eva worked on projects for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



Zuzana Caputova Slovakia

Zuzana is a new lawyer at Via Iuris (www.viaiuris.sk), Slovakia's only public interest environmental law organization. Prior to joining Via Iuris, Zuzana co-authored legal publications on child neglect, street law, and public participation in decision making (the Aarhus Convention). She directed a project for disadvantaged children (Zrkadlo "mirror"), co-founded the civic association "Eq Klub," and later served as chair of the board of the community foundation Sami Sebe Pezinok.



Gines Ruiz Macia Spain

Gino is a public interest environmental lawyer in Murcia, in south-east Spain. He is co-founder of the Asociacion para la Justicia Ambiental (Aja!). He is working to protect the coast of Spain from Europe's largest urban development project. Gino provides legal services to Ecologistas en Acción, Anse, Greenpeace, and SEO/Birdlife. Gino is also working to protect the Segura River from industrial and urban pollution. He teaches in the doctoral program for environmental law at the University of Alicante.



Lalanath de Silva Sri Lanka

Lalanath has been a public interest litigator and advocate for more than two decades. He has appeared in leading environmental cases in Sri Lanka on behalf of victims, communities, and non-governmental organizations. As Legal Consultant to the Ministry of Environment and Forests he drafted and enacted numerous regulatory provisions addressing noise, ozone depleting substances, and ambient air quality. Lalanath founded the International Public Interest Defenders in Geneva and served as Legal Officer with the United Nations Compensation Commission's Environmental Claims Unit. He currently leads the Access Initiative and The Partnership for Principle 10 at World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C.



Magreth Mrema Tanzania

Magreth has worked for eight years at Tanzania's first public interest environmental law organization: the Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT), in Dar es Salaam. She completed law school this year at Tumaini University and is now a Legal Officer at LEAT. ELAW is working with LEAT to clean up polluting mines, defend human rights, and protect Lake Victoria. Magreth was instrumental in helping LEAT host the 2000 ELAW Annual Meeting in Arusha.



Maryana Bulhakova Ukraine

Maryana recently joined the staff of Environment People Law (www.epl.org.ua), Ukraine's leading public interest environmental law organization. She specializes in climate change issues and has worked on cases to advance access to information and the right to a safe and healthy environment. Together with the EPL team, Maryana is assessing the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in Ukraine. She also supervises students in EPL's clinical program.



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